

WE CLAIM
CLAIMS

1. A telecommunications network comprising a plurality of mesh nodes, each mesh node including one or more switches, at least one of the mesh nodes including a plurality of switches, each mesh node having a connection to each other mesh node by means of a connection between a switch at the one mesh node and a switch at the other mesh node and each mesh node having associated therewith a respective plurality of local nodes, each switch of each mesh node being connected to all of the respective associated plurality of local nodes and the network including a network routing algorithm to control the routing in the network.
2. A telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein one or more local nodes are connected to more than one mesh node.
- A 3. A telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the plurality of switches of a mesh node are connected.
4. A method of upgrading a telecommunications network, said telecommunications network comprising a plurality of mesh nodes, wherein each mesh node includes at least one switch, each mesh node having a direct connection to each other mesh node by means of a connection between a switch at the one mesh node and a switch at the other mesh node and the switch or switches of each mesh node being each connected to all of a respective plurality of multiple local nodes, the method comprising the steps of :-
 - (a) adding a further switch to at least one of the mesh nodes;
 - (b) connecting all of the respective plurality of local nodes to the further switch or switches;
 - (c) providing a network routing algorithm to control the routing in the network; and
 - (d) dividing the connections from the at least one mesh node to the switches of the other mesh nodes between the switch or switches and the further switch of the at least one mesh node.
5. A method of upgrading a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 4, further including the step of making a connection between the switches of the at least one mesh node.

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